

Message Text

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ORIGIN ARA-14

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DRAFTED BY ARA/CEN:AWILSON/LC
APPROVED BY ARA:SASHELTON
ARA/CEN:RCGRAHAM
LA/MRSD:GPHILLIPS
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LA/CEN:WLUKEN

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P 302355Z AUG 78
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY SAN SALVADOR PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 221428

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ELAB, SHUM, EAID, PGOV, ES

SUBJECT: AIFLD: DISCUSSION WITH AMBASSADOR QUINONEZ

REF: (A) STATE 218651 (B) SAN SALVADOR 4440

1. AT THE LATTER'S REQUEST, ARA/CEN ALTERNATE DIRECTOR RICHARD GRAHAM AND EL SALVADOR COUNTRY OFFICER ARLEN WILSON CALLED ON SALVADORAN AMBASSADOR ROBERTO QUINONEZ AT HIS OFFICE AUGUST 29 TO DISCUSS FUTURE OF AIFLD IN EL SALVADOR AND THE IMMEDIATE PROBLEM OF THE IMPENDING DEPARTURE OF AIFLD EMPLOYEE OULAHAN.

2. QUINONEZ HAD BEEN IN TOUCH WITH THE GOES MINISTER OF LABOR WHO HAD ADVISED HIM THAT (A) THERE HAD BEEN NO IMPLICIT OR EXPLICIT AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE GOES AND THE
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AFL/CIO THAT OULAHAN COULD STAY IN EL SALVADOR WITH A TOURIST VISA AND COUNSEL THE UCS (SALVADORAN CAMPESINO UNION) AND (B) THE GOES OFFER TO NEGOTIATE AIFLD FUTURE WAS BONA FIDE, THOUGH WITH THE PROVISIO THAT THE GOES HAD NOT ALREADY DETERMINED THAT AIFLD WOULD NECESSARILY BE ALLOWED TO RETURN.
LLOWED TO RETURN.

3. ARA/CEN OFFICERS INFORMED QUINONEZ THAT THE EMBASSY AND DEPARTMENT STOOD READY TO FACILITATE ANY NEGOTIATIONS

CONCERNING AIFLD'S STATUS BUT ONLY WITH THE PRIOR KNOWLEDGE AND APPROVAL OF AIFLD. QUINONEZ, WHO IS ACQUAINTED WITH AIFLD EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR DOHERTY, WILL CALL THE LATTER AUGUST 30 TO ATTEMPT TO CONVINCE HIM THAT THE GOES OFFER TO INITIATE DISCUSSIONS IS BEING MADE IN GOOD FAITH. THE DEPARTMENTAL RESPONSE TO THE EMBASSY'S REQUEST FOR INSTRUCTIONS TO BEGIN NEGOTIATIONS CONTAINED IN PARA 10 OF REFTEL (B) WILL HAVE TO AWAIT THE RESULTS OF THE DOHERTY/QUINONEZ CONVERSATION, DISCUSSIONS WITHIN THE DEPARTMENT AND CONSULTATIONS WITH AIFLD.

4. DEPARTMENT SUGGESTS THAT EMBASSY DEFER MAKING APPOINTMENT FOR OULAHAN WITH MINISTER OF LABOR PENDING RESULTS OF DOHERTY/QUINONEZ CONVERSATION SCHEDULED FOR AUGUST 29. AND SUGGEST TO OULAHAN THAT HE CONTACT HIS OFFICE TO LEARN RESULTS OF THAT MEETING. WE WILL INFORM THE EMBASSY OF THE RESULTS OF THE DOHERTY/QUINONEZ CONVERSATION AS SOON AS INFORMATION IS AVAILABLE.

5. MIKE HAMMER, AIFLD, PRESENTLY ON TDY SAN PEDRO SULA PLANS VISIT SAN SALVADOR SEPTEMBER 4-6, ARRIVING TACA 309, 9:05 A.M., SEPTEMBER 4. WE REGRET LATE NOTICE THIS VISIT
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PROPOSAL. CHRISTOPHER

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